

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

New claims 19-42 are presented for examination. These claims correspond to claims 1-24 which were the subject of a favorable decision with respect to patentability issued by the Board of Patent Appeals and Interferences on January 15, 2004 in the parent application Serial No. 09/215,299, filed December 18, 1998, now abandoned. The claims presented herewith have been amended to meet the outstanding formal points raised in the rejection in the '299 parent application. More specifically, claims 1, 11 and 20 have been amended to specify a range of 10:1 to 16:1, based on the disclosure at page 3, lines 6-9, and the word "substantially" has been deleted without prejudice from new claim 20, corresponding to previous claim 2.

The original claims in the application are misnumbered and jump from claim 11 at the bottom of page 15 to claim 14 at the top of page 16. The numbering of the claims presented herewith is based on the original claims as renumbered to take account of the above-noted discrepancy in the originally presented claims.

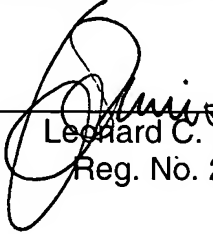
It is believed this application is now in condition for immediate allowance. Early notice to that effect is respectfully requested.

BECKER et al
Appl. No. Unassigned
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Respectfully submitted,

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By: _____


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